



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Bear Run Coal Mine

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Description:

- Bear Run coal mine is a surface mining operation located at near Carlisle, Indiana in Sullivan County. The geographic area has been mined since at least the early 1990s. Previously, the area now known as the Bear Run mine was included under another general permit authorization under a different owner. Peabody Midwest Mining LLC (Peabody Energy), which owns Bear Run mine, submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) in 2009 to request that the Bear Run mine operate under a separate general permit authorization.
- Bear Run coal mine had been operating under a combined general permit since 1996, and before the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) instituted general permits, the property had been under appropriate state permits since at least 1981. IDEM was established in 1986, so these early permits were not issued by IDEM.
- Coal mining operations are overseen by several agencies. Bear Run mine operates under the under the general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit rule for coal mines ([327 IAC 15-7](#)) from IDEM.
- Bear Run mine also operates under a surface mine permit issued by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR).
- Peabody Energy is pursuing Section 404 permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and IDEM is currently reviewing the Section 401 Water Quality Certification for Bear Run Amendment 5. Anytime a proposed project will require the filling of jurisdictional wetlands, streams, or lakes, both the USACE and IDEM will require Section 404/401 permits. The IDEM Section 401 Program is a separate permitting entity from NPDES permitting.
- The general permit coverage for the Bear Run mine is valid for five years at which time the company is required to file a new NOI for renewal of the general permit coverage. However, if there is a change in outfalls, mine drainage status, or receiving stream, the company will have to submit an amended NOI to IDEM.

Environmental Impacts:

- Coal mines must follow the federally established effluent guidelines.
- Coal mines must evaluate the potential for their activities to affect ground water and drinking water, and ensure that their activities do not cause poor water quality.
- The Department of Natural Resources' Division of Reclamation has three major components to every coal mining permit application. They require information about pre-mining inventory and maps, a mine operation plan, and a mine reclamation plan. All coal mining activities are included, regardless of mining method or size of the operation. These components are put into place to protect and later enhance the environment. More information is on the web at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/reclamation/>.
- Peabody Energy must submit discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) to IDEM on a monthly basis. They are required to do their own testing and complete their own reports. Peabody Energy is required to report the volume of wastewater discharged on the DMR along with the results of the parameter testing.
- DNR conducts routine inspections of the mine.

IDEM's Role:

- The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while allowing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial, and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.

- Coal mining operations are regulated by the Clean Water Act and by the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, and as a result, both IDEM and DNR oversee their activities to make sure water quality is protected.
- The authorization to discharge under the NPDES general permit rule issued by IDEM to Bear Run is a legally enforceable document that identifies the location of the permitted outfalls and holds the facility accountable for monitoring and controlling pollutants based upon the drainage status of the outfall.
- Testing for manganese, aluminum, copper, zinc, and nickel are only required for acid drainage outfalls. Currently, Bear Run has 30 outfalls, but does not have any acid drainage outfalls, so these parameters are not required. However, if any acid drainage outfalls are added in the future, testing for the additional metals would be required for those locations.
- IDEM requires the permit holder to monitor the discharges in accordance with the general permit rule and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's federal guidelines. The coal mine general permit addresses primarily storm water discharges from the facility. Acidity, iron content, and total suspended solids must be controlled in the wastewater flowing from the mine site—this mainly includes storm water that is captured during the surface mining operations, monitored and then discharged in a controlled manner. The DNR permit requires the installation of sedimentation basins to control and treat the water that emanates from the coal mining operations.
- Facilities operating in Indiana must comply with all state and federal environmental rules and regulations. IDEM staff work appropriately to enforce the state and federal environmental laws and rules that fall under IDEM's jurisdiction.

Citizen's Role:

- IDEM encourages citizens to remain informed about business activities in their neighborhoods and direct concerns and questions to the appropriate company representatives. Businesses are encouraged to work with neighbors to alleviate concerns or complaints. IDEM compliance and inspection staff will take swift action to resolve problems where business activities are posing a threat to human health or the environment.
- Citizens can learn about IDEM's regulatory programs by visiting the agency's website at www.idem.IN.gov. To report pollution complaints, citizens should contact IDEM's complaint coordinator at (800) 451-6027, ext. 2-4464. Businesses and citizens should report environmental emergencies, such as spills, to IDEM's 24-hour toll free spill line at (888) 233-7745.

More Information:

- For additional information regarding the Bear Run operation, please visit IDEM's Virtual File Cabinet at <http://12.186.81.89/Pages/Member/Search.aspx>. Under the header Index, choose NPDES# and enter ING040239 under the header Value.
- For more information about IDEM's permit requirements for coal mines, please visit IDEM's Permit Guide at www.idem.IN.gov/5917.htm.
- For more information about DNR's permit requirements for coal mines, please visit the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Reclamation website at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/reclamation/>.
- Citizens may direct questions about the NPDES general permit to Catherine Hess, Section Chief of IDEM's Office of Water Quality, Permitting Branch, at (317) 232-8704, at (800) 451-6027, ext. 2-8704, or by e-mail at chess@idem.IN.gov.
- For media inquiries, please contact Amy Hartsock, IDEM Public Information Officer, at (317) 233-4927, at (800) 451-6027 ext. 3-4927, or by e-mail at ahartsoc@idem.IN.gov.